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Tiverton
Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending

31st December, 1948

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PRINTERS, TIVERTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) Part time M.O.H.:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors:

W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
A. L. SANDERS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

(c) Water Engineer:

D. G. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

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TO THE

TIVERTON

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 114,139 Acres.

Population, estimated: 20,540.

Rateable Value: £77,777.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate: £336.

Social Conditions. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are, on the whole, good.

Slaughtering Industries.

Government Slaughterhouse, Tiverton Junction.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	321	171	150	Birth Rate per 1000 the population—16·9
	Illegitimate	28	15	13	
Still Births	Legitimate	4	3	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and still-births) births—11·0
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths		209	104	105	Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—10·4

Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy and child-birth	from sepsis ..	Nil
	from other causes	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	26·3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46·5
Illegitimate infants deaths under one	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ..	1
,, ,, Cancer	30

Statistics for England and Wales.

Births per 1,000 of population	Live	17·9
	Still	0·42
Deaths		10·8
Deaths under one year of age		34

Excessive Mortality during the Year.

Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. NURSING in the home. No change.

2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES practising in the Area. The District Nurses, of which there are 16, act in this capacity.

3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before, also at the Pathological Department, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no major change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.

5. THE TIVERTON HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The position in the above is unsatisfactory. There is a shortage of staff which renders this Institution useless. This hospital was closed for infectious diseases during the year and cases requiring isolation now go to Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter.

GENERAL SURGICAL and Medical Cases are sent to the Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. These have always proved adequate in accommodation.

MATERNITY CASES requiring hospital treatment usually are admitted to the Tiverton and District Hospital. Admissions have to be limited owing to danger of over-crowding.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Water supplies generally were satisfactory. Farmers are still improving their supplies with the assistance of the financial aid offered through the County Council, which should have a considerable effect on clean milk production throughout the area.

A chlorinating apparatus has been installed on the Bampton Scheme, ensuring a satisfactory supply there at all times, although Bampton supplies are still a little short at certain seasons of the year.

The Regional Water Scheme has been satisfactory with the exception of the occasional shortages at Bradninch, Silverton, Thorverton, Whitnage and Hemyock. A scheme has been prepared and forwarded to the Ministry to rectify these shortages.

The Shillingford Scheme is now completed, and after a considerable number of leakages had been repaired, is working satisfactorily. House connections in the village are being carried out.

New water mains have been laid and new service connections made throughout Bradninch, to overcome the difficult supply position caused by old and defective pipes and fittings.

The metering of all premises using water for trade purposes is proceeding.

During the year, the following new consumers have taken advantage of the Council's water schemes and have been connected :—

New Domestic consumers	293	
New Trade consumers ..	47	(metered supplies)
	340	Total

Bye laws are being prepared under the Water Act, 1945, for the prevention of waste, undue consumpton, misuse or contamination of water supplied through the Council's water schemes.

Sewerage.

Parish.	Sewerage.	Estimated Population.
Bampton.	A scheme for a new disposal plant together with improvements to the outfall sewer has been approved by the Ministry and it is hoped that work will commence during the year 1949.	1592
Bickleigh.	The village is partly sewered and disposal is by means of a Septic Tank.	200
Bradninch.	There are two outfalls, disposal is by means of settling tanks and irrigation channels. During the year improvements have been carried out to the sludge drying beds and the flushing tanks on the sewer have been repaired.	1792
Burlescombe.	The existing sewer and septic tank is entirely unsatisfactory. A new sewerage scheme is required at Westleigh.	687
Butterleigh.	No sewerage scheme. Mainly pail closets.	96
Cadbury.	Conservancy.	157

Parish.	Sewerage.	Estimated Population.
Cadeleigh.	Partly sewered. Disposal by Septic Tank and Filter.	162
Clayhanger.	No sewerage system. Mainly pail closets.	136
Clayhidon.	No sewerage scheme. Drainage is disposed of by septic tanks where W.C's. have been installed.	483
Cruwys Morchard.	Conservancy. Mainly pails.	463
Cullompton.	The existing sewerage system is working satisfactorily. Disposal is by means of settling tanks and percolating filters. A man is employed full time on maintaining this system. Flooding of the sewer occurs at some points during heavy rainfall.	2973
Culmstock.	The existing disposal works are inadequate and a new scheme is urgently required.	875
Halberton.	Consulting Engineers have the question of a comprehensive scheme for the village in hand. It is hoped that a detailed scheme will be submitted to the Ministry during the year 1949.	1302
Hemyock.	There is a sewerage scheme with an unsatisfactory outfall. A proper disposal plant is urgently required in this village.	957
Hockworthy.	Conservancy—mainly pails.	201
Holcombe Rogus.	Conservancy—there are also several unsatisfactory septic tanks in the village and a sewerage scheme is required.	478

Parish.	Sewerage.	Estimated Population.
Huntsham.	Conservancy—mainly pails.	183
Kentisbeare.	There is a very primitive sewerage system with no proper disposal works. A sewerage scheme is required.	814
Loxbeare.	Conservancy—pails and septic tanks.	159
Morebath.	Conservancy—pails and septic tanks. Unsatisfactory conditions at Exbridge will need attention in the future.	403
Oakford.	Sewerage scheme with septic tank and filter. The filter will require improvements before the scheme will work satisfactorily.	444
Sampford Peverell.	A detailed scheme is being prepared by Consulting Engineers for submission to the Ministry. The existing conditions are very bad, giving rise to nuisances during the Summer.	730
Silverton.	Public Sewer with a satisfactory disposal works. A sewer at the rear of King Street will need re-laying in the near future.	1129
Stoodleigh.	Conservancy—mainly pails.	300
Templeton.	Conservancy—mainly pails.	155
Thorverton.	Public sewerage scheme with a satisfactory disposal works.	874
Uffculme.	Public sewerage scheme, settling tanks and broad irrigation. A new disposal plant will be required at a future date.	1672

Parish.	Sewerage.	Estimated Population.
Uplowman.	Conservancy. Pails and septic tanks.	316
Washfield.	Village scheme with septic tank, which has been repaired during the year.	315
Willand.	A detailed scheme is being prepared by Consulting Engineers for submission to the Ministry of Health.	566

Shops Act.

It has not been found necessary to serve any formal notice for defects. These have been dealt with immediately the attention of the Manager has been drawn to the existence of same.

Smoke Abatement.

Complaints have been received and are being investigated concerning an alleged smoke nuisance in the Hemyock area. No action has yet been considered necessary.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.

The Council are now operating two refuse lorries and refuse is collected from every one of the 30 parishes in the district.

A weekly collection of refuse is in operation in the larger villages and built-up areas in the district and fortnightly collections in the small out-lying villages and hamlets. Arrangements have also been made for the collection of refuse from farms and isolated groups of houses, provided the refuse can be brought to a central point on a road which can be negotiated by the refuse lorry.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Gaddon Down, Uffculme.

Sanitation of Schools.

During the year two cases of unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements have been taken up with the County Education Authority who have promised to take the necessary steps to remedy the defects.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses cleansed and re-decorated	10
Nuisances from Cesspools and Waste Deposits ..	42
Wells closed	4
Number of Cowsheds on Register at end of Year ..	761
Inspections—Cowsheds	76
Dairies	19
Milk Samples taken	Nil
Bakehouse Inspections	22
Shops and Food Stores	39
Slaughterhouse Inspections	520
Inspection of Butchers' and other Shops	34
Inspection of Hide Stores	6
Number of Carcases Examined	18,736
Amount of Unsound Meat ..	30 tons, 3 qrs., 27 lbs.
Inspection of Schools	6
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases	32
Verminous	10
Knacker Yard	17
Nuisances and Complaints	104
Rats and Mice	40

FORM 572.

1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories .. .. .. (Including Factory Laundries	17	Nil	Nil
Workshops .. .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	6	Nil	Nil
Workplaces . .. (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	23	Nil	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Want of cleanliness, 4—these 4 were remedied.

Sanitary Conveniences—

(*a*) Insufficient, 2—1 remedied.

(*b*) Unsuitable or defective, 3—these 3 were remedied.

Total number of defects found, 9.
Total number of defects remedied, 8.

HOUSING.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during Year*:—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 974

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1168

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 759

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 835

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. 16

(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 743

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices*:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 52

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year*:—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners (work in hand) .. 8

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .. Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners 5

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .. Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted .. .. Nil

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order 3

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. Nil

Rural Housing Survey.

The systematic inspection of houses of a rateable value of under £16, for sanitary defects, continued throughout the year. The survey has been completed in the parishes of:—Bampton, Bradninch, Cullompton, Culmstock, Halberton, Hemyock, Kentisbeare, Morebath, Sampford Peverell, Silverton, Thorverton, Uffculme and Willand.

I give herewith a Summary of the work carried out up to 31st December, 1948.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected	3139
Number placed in Category "A" (Satisfactory in all respects). ..	533
Category "B" (Houses with minor defects).	1123
Category "C" (Houses with major defects requiring reconditioning and structural repair).	1283
Category "D" (Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable expense).	200
Total number of over-crowded houses ..	14

Owing to the amount of disrepair which has accumulated during the war years and since as a direct result of building restrictions, the number of houses beyond repair at a reasonable expense is increasing annually. Very few of the families living in this type of property are being rehoused in the new Council houses. As a consequence, the housing standards throughout the district are being lowered.

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk Supply.

Considerable progress has been made in the reconstruction of cowsheds during the year.

The farms at which T.T. or Accredited Milk is produced have received special consideration for Building Licenses to repair.

Plans for new Cowsheds have been submitted for approval and observations of the County Medical Officer of Health, so far as milk production is concerned.

(*b*) Meat inspection (Meat Regulations and Slaughter-houses (R.D.C.) Order 1934).

Only one slaughterhouse has been in use during the year, situated at Tiverton Junction.

The work of Meat Inspection has received special attention. All carcases and offals have been inspected at the time or just after slaughter.

Attention has been drawn from time to time to the need for cleansing the premises, but it has not been found necessary to serve formal notices.

Minor repairs to the premises have been carried out during the year. A new tripe dressing building was erected and proved a great advantage in dealing with this product.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

No action has been needed under the above Act. The electroleather is used for the stunning of sheep and pigs and the Cash Captive Bolt for Bullocks and Calves.

(*c*) Adulteration—Action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. The work is carried out by the County Medical Department.

(*d*) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. The work is undertaken by the County Medical Department.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948 giving age incidence.

Under 1 Year	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria	Whoop-ing Cough	Measles	Pneu-monia	Ery-sipelas	Para Typhoid	Dysen-tery (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Menin-gitis	Enteric
0— 1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1— 3	2	—	5	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
3— 5	2	—	3	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	7	—	16	8	6	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
25—30	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
30—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
35—45	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—
55- over	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15	—	26	23	27	3	—	—	—	1

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. 3 Cases.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1948

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 up	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	1	1	3	3	1	1

All the above deaths have been notified according to the Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925. No action was taken during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the Officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.